AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-2.   (Canceled)

3.   (Original) An image processing method for obtaining color-balance adjusted image data by carrying out color balance adjustment processing on white-balance adjusted image data obtained by carrying out, on original image data, white balance adjustment processing using gain adjustment in a color space in which the original image data have been obtained and by carrying out predetermined image processing thereon, the image processing method comprising the steps of:

obtaining inverse white-balance adjusted image data by carrying out, on the white-balance adjusted image data, inverse image processing which is inverse processing of the predetermined image processing and inverse white balance adjustment processing which is inverse processing of the white balance adjustment processing; and

obtaining the color-balance adjusted image data by carrying out the color balance adjustment processing on the inverse white-balance adjusted image data.

4.   (Original) An image processing method as defined in Claim 3, wherein the inverse white balance adjustment processing is carried out on the white-balance adjusted image data, based on information when carrying out the white balance adjustment processing.

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5. (Previously presented) An image processing method as defined in Claim 3, wherein the inverse image processing is carried out on the white-balance adjusted image data, based on information when carrying out the predetermined image processing.

Claims 6-7.   (Canceled).

8.   (Original) An image processing apparatus for obtaining color-balance adjusted image data by carrying out color balance adjustment processing on white-balance adjusted image data obtained by carrying out, on original image data, white balance adjustment processing using gain adjustment in a color space in which the original image data have been obtained and by carrying out predetermined image processing thereon, the image processing apparatus comprising:

inverse processing means for obtaining inverse white-balance adjusted image data by carrying out, on the white-balance adjusted image data, inverse image processing which is inverse processing of the predetermined image processing and inverse white balance adjustment processing which is inverse processing of the white balance adjustment processing; and

color balance adjustment processing means for obtaining the color-balance adjusted image data by carrying out the color balance adjustment processing on the inverse white-balance adjusted image data.

9.   (Original) An image processing apparatus as defined in Claim 8, wherein the inverse processing means carries out the inverse white balance adjustment processing on the

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white-balance adjusted image data, based on information when carrying out the white balance adjustment processing.

10.   (Previously presented) An image processing apparatus as defined in Claim 8, wherein the inverse processing means carries out the inverse image processing on the white-balance adjusted image data, based on information when carrying out the predetermined image processing.

Claims 11-12. (Canceled)

13.   (Original) A computer-readable recording medium storing a program to cause a computer to execute an image processing method for obtaining color-balance adjusted image data by carrying out color balance adjustment processing on white-balance adjusted image data obtained by carrying out white balance adjustment processing on original image data by using gain adjustment in a color space in which the original image data have been obtained and by carrying out predetermined image processing thereon, the program comprising the procedures of:

obtaining inverse white-balance adjusted image data by carrying out, on the white-balance adjusted image data, inverse image processing which is inverse processing of the predetermined image processing and inverse white balance adjustment processing which is inverse processing of the white balance adjustment processing; and

obtaining the color-balance adjusted image data by carrying out the color balance adjustment processing on the inverse white-balance adjusted image data.

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14. (Original) A computer-readable recording medium as defined in Claim 13, wherein the procedure of obtaining the inverse white-balance adjusted image data is the procedure of obtaining the inverse white-balance adjusted image data by carrying out the inverse white balance adjustment processing on the white-balance adjusted image data, based on information when carrying out the white balance adjustment processing.

15. (Previously presented) A computer-readable recording medium as defined in Claim 13, wherein the procedure of obtaining the inverse white-balance adjusted image data is the procedure of obtaining the inverse white-balance adjusted image data by carrying out the inverse image processing on the white-balance adjusted image data, based on information when carrying out the predetermined image processing.

Claims 16-18. (Canceled)

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